

REMARKS

Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to co-pending U.S. application No. 10/079,624, which is a continuation-in-part of this application and includes related subject matter. All of the art which has been provided in the '624 application has been provided or cited in the instant case.

By the present amendment, claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error by amending "sampleand" to read -- sample and --.

In the pending Official Action, the Examiner states that claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Of the remaining claims, claims 11-14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Corrigan et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,109,691. Claims 15, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; however, the Examiner has stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

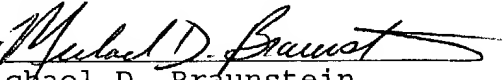
Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position with respect to the rejected claims. However, for the purpose of expediting issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants hereby cancel claims 11-20. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application, potentially in connection with the co-pending '624 application referenced above.

As it is believed that all of the issues set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be placed in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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